

# Envision Prepare Opportunity Imagine Believe Real Possibilities

## A vision for the future

### BLOOMINGTON: THE COMPLETE CITY CREATING A PATH TO SUCCESS

#### THE COMPLETE CITY BLOOMINGTON AS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE

THE DEFINITION OF “COMPLETE” describes some of the high-quality and transformative qualities that the City of Bloomington is incorporating in its vision statement for the community’s future.

**com•plete** |kəmˈplēt| adjective

1. Having all parts or elements; lacking nothing; whole; entire; full.
2. Being an outstanding example of a kind; quintessential.
3. Having all the required or customary characteristics, skills, or the like; consummate; perfect in kind or quality.
4. Thorough; entire; total; undivided or uncompromised.

**A** COMPELLING VISION AROSE OUT of the strategic planning process. Bloomington: A Complete City conveys the idea of keeping what people already like, such as parks and public safety, while recognizing that Bloomington needs to make continuous improvements to become the consummate city.

Nearly 900 residents participated in public meetings, focus groups and online surveys last fall. They gave their vision of what Bloomington should look like in 20 years. Topping the list of what residents say they want for the future are safe and well-maintained neighborhoods, high-quality schools and stewardship of natural areas. As the City develops long-

term goals for 2025, the focus will center on the following key areas: City Services, Housing and Community, Transportation, People and Culture, Education and Employment, and Parks, Recreation and Open Space.

Here’s how some participants imagine Bloomington’s future.

*A sense of safety and security is important if your community is going to grow and be vital. If people feel a bunker mentality – that they can’t go out, safely recreate, use the parks, send their kids to school or go shopping – then nobody wins.*

*Police Chief John Laux, 44-year resident*



#### CITY SERVICES

##### PROVIDE SERVICES THAT PROTECT AND ENHANCE OUR LIVES

“Sense of safety and security” ranked first among survey respondents’ quality-of-life factor. Participants also said that “safe place” is Bloomington’s number one

strength. A city’s reputation for safety is paramount. It is important to ensure Bloomington maintains its good reputation so that activity will continue in the community’s streets, parks and public spaces. The public also has high expectations that local government will provide for the safety of its citizens during an emergency. The City will increasingly be a primary responder in all types of emergencies and continue to identify and address future challenges.

#### HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

##### ENSURE CLEAN NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMERCIAL AREAS

“Well-maintained neighborhoods” was the second important quality-of-life factor, according to survey respondents. More than half of Bloomington’s single-family housing was constructed in the 1950s and 1960s. One major concern was that some areas were starting to look old and worn. The strategic plan will look at how to address the continuing maintenance of the city’s neighborhoods and commercial properties. Renewing the community will also attract new residents and businesses, ensuring that Bloomington will remain competitive with more recently developed cities.



*People want the City to enforce property maintenance. Residents keep their houses and yards nice and expect to live in neighborhoods with similarly kept properties. Sooner or later they’re going to sell their houses. For a potential buyer, a clean, attractive-looking neighborhood is going to make them confident about investing. In addition, people say that the appearance of nearby commercial property affects the impression of their neighborhood.*

*Community Development Director  
Larry Lee, 20-year resident*

*I’ve seen housing develop since 1959 in Bloomington. As we moved from east to west the properties got more expensive and bigger. Many of us who have been here for a long time don’t want to leave Bloomington, but can no longer physically handle the large houses. Not all of us want the really expensive ones with more levels. Many of us need one-level, two-bedroom homes with no steps. We want to stay here and continue to be a part of Bloomington.*

*Pat Reichert, 48-year resident*

